State Advisory Panel

November 18, 2020 via Zoom conference

Meeting Minutes

**Present:**

Tracey Whitlock

Libby Stone-Sterling

Erin Frazier

Carrie Woodcock

Brian Cavanaugh

Jodie Hall

Gwen Sortoris

Shawn Collier

Howard Wright

**1. Open Comment**

* Group needs to put together a master email list, used to have one
* Susan Walters is no longer a member. She was the MADSEC person (SPED director) need to reach out to get someone new.
* Everyone agreed to recording this Zoom session.

*Open Comment:* None

**2. Update SPP/APR Shawn Collier**

* OSEP a few weeks ago approved next package, all 17 indicators are still included and have changed a bit.
* Start of PowerPoint sharing
* In general group will need to set new targets and baselines for indicators.
* No significant changes to the following indicators (7, 9, 10, 11, 15,16, 17)
* Indicator 4 has minimal changes to the n size and cell size requirements
* Indicators 9 and 10 could mirror/align with 618 indicators, calculations even though the indicators themselves have not changed.
* Indicator 1 changes include: All states need to use 4-year rate (standardized), no alternative for states. Maine has been doing this, no change. Last year is the baseline need new targets.
* Indicator 2 all states have to collect data the same way no alternatives. Maine has collected data the required way.
* Indicator 3a is remaining the same, 3b and 3c have been separated into proficiency of children with IEP’s and proficiency of children with IEP’s taking alternate assessments, 3d is new, the gap in proficiency rates for children with IEP’s and all students against grade level academic achievement standards, new baselines are needed for all of the indicators in number 3.
* Indicator 5 now includes 5-year old's in kindergarten, will need to establish new baselines and targets.
* Indicator 6 includes ages 3, 4, and 5 with the exception of 5 year old's in kindergarten, 6c was added to collect data on children receiving services in the home.
* Indicator 8 changes are about response rate, to compare surveys to previous years, and representativeness including subgroups of parents not represented, race/ethnicity, and demographics. May need to revise the survey to collect this data. Currently using Qualtrics the Department is working with districts to increase response rates.
* Indicator 13 has changes in the language the most important are “representative of any agency” and “pre employment”. Shawn and Erin indicated that the monitoring team may need to be engaged in future SAP meetings when discussing this indicator.
* Indicator 14 pose secondary outcomes has added demographics, race, ethnicity, etc. The data office has all of this data and can report on these changes except for a new requirement for year to year comparison.
* Stakeholder involvement included the need for a plan a number of parent members, parent center staff, supporting diverse groups, timelines, target setting and evaluation to the public.
* Future discussions during SAP to discuss baselines, thresholds, and targets.

*Open Comment:*

* A question about 3d about including children taking alternative assessments was asked Shawn indicated they would not be included. Discussion about the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on future cohorts was a concern. Shawn indicated that the changes were being made by OSEP for standardization across states.
* There was a question about indicator 6c about whether data was separated by ages 3, 4,5 targets or one group, Shawn indicated this was still being discussed. The group was concerned about the COVID impact on this data for baselines and targets.
* Comments about indicator 8 include: Some members indicated that there should be less open-ended questions in the survey, questioned whether race/ethnicity is usually left blank or unavailable, some survey questions might identify the child in a smaller district and that is why they may leave particular questions blank. There was also a question about alternate formats for non-English language speakers. Could engage the ELL departments in the districts. Should there be a note on the survey that indicates it is going to MDOE and not back to the district? OSEP is currently training parent centers for increasing parental input and data collection. There was a question about whether OSEP has imposed a threshold for this indicator. Shawn indicated that the SEA sets the threshold in discussions with OSEP.
* Members agreed that the inclusion of pre employment is important. The representation of any agency could broaden membership at IEP meetings and who needs to be invited.
* How do we get stakeholder involvement making sure parents are involved moving forward and letting them know what will be addressed during future meetings?

**3. MDOE Updates: Erin Frazier**

* PCG (Public Consulting Group) report phase 1, completed and has been distributed to the public.
* The report has a discussion about participation rates for birth to 3. The report also discusses whether Part C should stay with MDOE, be moved to DHHS or into a new government agency. Part C has new leadership Jamie Michaud. MDOE is interested in keeping birth-3 in the department. The birth-1 data and the ages 2-3 data are much different. Rebranding CDS was suggested.
* Discussion about whether ages 3-5 (619) should be moved to the districts and the budget impacts. Integrating 3-5 with 5-20 would involve 1 transition instead of 2. The report recommended that there needs to be work transitioning children between birth-2 to ages 3-5. The report indicates a number of children's LRE are in restrictive environments for 3-5 year olds.
* There is a general recommendation about increasing the billing to Mainecare. It also indicated there is not capacity to bill for general instruction although a number of developmental services/instructions could be billed for according to the report.
* The Ed Committee in the legislature has sub committees working on the recommendations in the report.

*Open comment:*

* There was a general discussion that universal pre-k which is currently not mandated is not uniform across the state.
* There was a discussion about when the State Advisory Panel should weigh in on the report and legislative discussions, the group agreed most likely later. There are stakeholder meetings currently happening through the legislative ed committee.
* The report indicates that child find for birth-2 is one of the lowest in the nation and that birth-2 in other states is in DHHS.
* If the birth-2 is moved to DHHS there is an increase of transitions for families.

**4. Assessment Changes: Tracey Whitlock**

* Districts that are using CRF funds to implement their assessment system must spend the funds before the end of the year, this may mean that some districts are not able to use the CFR funds fro assessment.
* The state is not renewing the contract with COGNIA, and there may be a waiver for the spring 2020 assessment.
* The blog for MDOE assessment updates was shared with the panel in the chat box: <https://www.maine.gov/doe/Testing_Accountability/MECAS/monthly-update/create-assessment-blog-0>

*Open comment:*

* Concern of some members about not using the NWEA’s are that it’s the 3rd change in recent years, another baseline will have to be established which has already been switched a number of times, many parents with children in special education rely on the assessments for progress monitoring.
* The panel would like the assessment team to possibly attend the next meeting.

**5. Social Emotional Learning: Tracey Whitlock**

* SEL 4 ME online program and lessons that are online were reviewed. Open to everyone worldwide, being under continual development and review with stakeholder engagement for increasing and growing the curriculum.

*Open Comment:*

* The modules and lessons work well with transition for pre employment and employment skills.

**6. MOOSE Modules Update: Tracey Whitlock**

* More modules are going up for quarter 2, quarter 3 modules will be going up soon, continued engagement of teachers, using Grackle for accessibility, session duration is increasing, 90% of the users are on a desktop, mostly Maine users but there are users from other states and other countries. New users continue to come in.

*Open Comment:* None.

**Open Forum**

* PCG is the only thing on the table legislatively for the Ed Committee at this time, the panel needs more information from stakeholders and budgeting impacts before making any recommendations